

Health Services Impact Committee

Minutes of Meeting of January 11, 2007

Present: Ms. Wessel and Mr. Sommers, co-chairs; Dr. Wu and Ms. Clement, Messers Grimes, Loveless and Hoeflinger; Ms. George.

Discussion of Preceding Meeting

The Committee discussed the preceding meeting attended by Mr. Stocks and Mr. Jepson of Washington Adventist Hospital. The Committee noted the hospital's unequivocal intention to relocate, with members commenting that it appeared the hospital might be willing to consider doing something more in the area such as perhaps adding another satellite office in the University Ave.—New Hampshire Avenue vicinity, and funding the White Oak clinic; that while it might appear the hospital were looking to this committee for a possible ally, there had been little follow through on the hospital's part in the past following community-hospital contacts.

The Committee agreed to ask the hospital for a copy of the D.O.N., as was offered; also for the amount of uncompensated care the hospital was providing and how the amount was computed, seeking especially to distinguish between indigent care expense and bad debt expense. It was mentioned that the hospital claimed to be providing more uncompensated care than other Maryland hospitals, and the Committee was interested in knowing if this were in absolute dollars or in terms of catchment area or beds. The Committee also decided to request statistics on the delivery of uncompensated care broken out by service delivery area.

The Committee also expressed interest in learning in detail what tertiary and inpatient services presently offered by the hospital would no longer be available after the hospital relocates. Also interest was expressed in learning what needs are currently not being met, possibly by contacting the Primary Care Coalition which was reported as being composed of representatives of the privately insured, the uninsured, and the Medicaid population. Federally Qualified Health Care Providers (FQHCs) were also mentioned as requiring large poverty catchment areas to meet federal criteria, with the question posed as to whether there were safety net clinics for the uninsured and Medicaid population. Hospitals are required to screen for and help people apply for uncompensated care, it was also noted, and that it was to a hospital's benefit to do so since it thereby might reduced any cash it might be required to provide to the statewide uncompensated care pool by the amount of uncompensated care it rendered. Finally, comment was made regarding Medicaid services for babies whose parents are not citizens to the effect that if parents are undocumented aliens they cannot be enrolled in SCHIP.

First Public Meeting

The Committee next discussed public meetings and decided to hold its first public meeting on Feb. 6, 7 or 8 (later determined to be Feb. 7) at Victory Towers, from seven to nine p.m., pending permission to use the facility.

Mr. Grimes suggested post card mailings to households in the ward, and asking the City Manager's office to help. He also suggested flyers for individual households.

Ms. George reminded the committee that the meeting place would be required to meet section 88 requirements.

Mr. Grimes offered to ask for permission to use the site, Dr. Wu to write up a tentative agenda, Mr. Summers to speak with County Council members Elrich and Leventhal regarding their possible attendance and also Ms. Mizeur, state Representative. Mr. Grimes also volunteered to prepare a short write-up for Ms. George to use for publicity.

The theme of the meeting was agreed upon as "The Impact of Washington Adventist Hospital's Relocation

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on Accessibility of Health Care."

The committee targeted Feb. 27th or 28th for a second community meeting at Columbia Union's student center, and Mr. Grimes offered to check for space availability for a third meeting at the N.H. Avenue Rec Center or New Hampshire Towers apartments.

Other Matters

The Committee with regret was informed of the resignation of Mr. Netteburg due to his moving from the area. Mr. Summers agreed to speak with Ms. Carpenter regarding the City Council's appointing a replacement.

The Committee agreed to meet next on January 31, 2007 at seven p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick L. Hoeflinger